

Truly the originator of Christianity has left a mark on the world beyond that of any other individual who ever lived. All events are dated before or after His life and every time we write the heading of a letter we give recognition to the fact that He is the center of history.

The character of Jesus Christ has held a great fascination for the imagination of everyone who has taken the time to read much about Him. Scarcely one of the great novelists but has longed to write a life of Christ and many of them have taken the task in hand. No other individual in all history has established so great an empire over the minds and hearts of men. Toward the end of his life Napoleon said, "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires. But upon what did we rest the creations of our genius? -- upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."

This One whose influence is so widespread throughout the earth lived and died in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire nearly 2000 years ago. He did not come to the attention of the great political leaders of His day. No disciplined army followed His beck and call. His Name was not spread about during His lifetime in the news that went to distant cities. To the eyes of the Roman governors He was merely a Galilean peasant; yet the influence which He exerted upon those who knew Him, and which was extended through them to others, after His death, spread to the very ends of the earth, and in the course of three centuries overcame all resistance in the mighty Roman Empire.

How could this individual, without the earthly advantages which have belonged to other builders of empires, extend His influence so widely? Surely He was unique among men. There was a quality in Him lacking in others. It was His deity.

The four little books which give us all our first-hand knowledge of the life of Jesus portray a character supreme in all His qualities. Yet there is nothing artificial or unreal about it. He enters fully into all the experiences of human